

# UC Regents: An Elite Club That Runs a Vast University

BY WILLIAM TROMBLEY  
*Times Education Writer*

The regents of the University of California look out at the world from expensive homes and fancy offices in or near San Francisco and Los Angeles.

They are men and women of wealth and influence, and they live that way.

They drive fine cars and own boats and airplanes. They belong to the best clubs and play tennis on their own private courts.

When the Los Angeles regents travel north for a meeting they dine at Jack's or the Blue Fox and stay at quietly elegant hotels.

When the Bay Area regents must come south, a dreadful prospect to some, they seek solace at Perino's or the Bel-Air Hotel.

At least half a dozen of the 18 appointed board members are millionaires, perhaps more. Some are considered too busy to discuss their finances. Some think it unwise since the kidnapping of Patricia Hearst, one of five daughters of Regent Catherine Hearst.

Some regents inherited their wealth while others, like Los Angeles department store owners Edward C. Cather and San Diego attorney DeVitt A. Higgs, are self-made men.

The appointed regents range in age from 50 to 70. Most are in their 60s. All are white. Only two are women — Mrs. Heller and Elinor Heller.

(This article is mostly concerned with the appointed regents. There are also eight who serve on the board by virtue of the offices they hold.)

(They are the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state superintendent of public instruction, the Speaker of the Assembly, the president of the university, the president of the UC Alumni Assn., the president of the state Board of Agriculture and the president of the Merchants' Exchange of the state's earliest educational institutions and now principally a library.)

Most governors have tried to balance Northern and Southern California appointments. Certain other constituencies are generally represented.

A Hearst usually has been on the board partly as thanks for the many buildings on the UC Berkeley campus made possible by gifts from Phoebe Apperson Hearst around the turn of the century.

The powerful Jewish families of San Francisco have been represented historically and so, until Gov. Reagan took office, was organized labor.

A regental appointment carries great prestige and status.

"It's the college of cardinals," said William K. Coblenz, a San Francis-

## 'It's like the Order of the Garter in England.'

co attorney who was appointed by Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown in 1964.

"For a guy like me it gives me more of an aura of respectability than I might have otherwise. When I go into court the judge will say 'Good morning, Mr. Coblenz, how is the university?' I'm not just another lawyer." I'm a regent."

San Joaquin Gov. Brown, "It's like the Order of the Garter in England."

One hears stories around the university of wealthy Californians who have offered campaign contributions of \$50,000 or more for a seat on the Board of Regents.

The regents, however, insisted, Gov. Brown did say, "Everybody who contributed more than \$5,000 thought he was buying a seat."

Why do wealthy, powerful people want to be regents?

"Oh, I don't know. It was prestigious. The regents had been pillars of society long before I became governor," Brown said.

The university is such a stimulating place . . . When you're around these professors it just gives you a good feeling."

Even now, after the troubles of the last decade, appointments are sought eagerly.

"Maybe I never had the exposure before, but one of the exciting things to me is the charisma of being exposed to eminent people," said Robert O. Reynolds, who was appointed by Gov. Brown.

Brown is president of the California Angels baseball team and was formerly president of Golden West Broadcasters. He was a tackle on the Stanford University football teams in the mid '30s, the only man ever to play 60 minutes in three Rose Bowls games. He has met his share of important people.

The "eminent people" who impress Reynolds are University of California researchers—the UC San Diego oceanographers who are probing the depths of the sea or the agriculturalists who are developing better crops or formulating "explosive" DDT.

I don't think the average person, who perhaps thinks the university costs too much, I don't think he knows what an enormous addition to the storehouse of knowledge the University of California has made," Reynolds said.

Like many other regents, Ray-

mond's wife, Mary, is a former

teacher.



gent prefers a single or a double bed, and whether he requires a board under his mattress."

The various regents' committees

(educational policy and finance are two of the most important) meet on Monday afternoons. Much of the business is accomplished at these sessions because most committee actions are ratified by the full board when it meets next day.

During the hectic '60s, the meetings filled two days and sometimes ran into the late evenings. Special meetings were common. But these days the committee sessions generally end in midafternoon and the full board has usually wrapped up its business by early afternoon.

Friends come and go during the two-day sessions. Sometimes a regent will appear for a particular committee meeting and not be seen again. Others sit doggedly through the tedious deliberations of committees of which they are not even members.

The important lawyers and busi-

nessmen on the board—Coblenz,

Carter, Los Angeles attorney Wil-

liam French Smith—are called to

telephone booths between

meetings of each committee meeting

and part of the full board meeting

are open to press and public, but

other parts are held in executive session. There the regents, according to their own by-laws, are supposed to confine themselves to such topics as personnel matters and the handling of the university's billion-dollar in-

vestment portfolio.

But almost any discussion can be labeled a "personnel matter" and many controversial decisions are reached behind closed doors.

The stakes about funding Clark Kerr, the university's former presi-

dent, and Angela Davis, the black

Communist Party member who

taught philosophy at UCLA, were

conducted in private although the votes on both dismissals were an-

ounced later.

The tone of the public discussions is generally polite. People who have not agreed on a substantive policy question for years nevertheless treat each other with civility.

There have been some notable ex-

ceptions to this general practice,

most of them involving the board's mavericks — Frederick G. Dutton and Norton Simon.

Dutton, a Washington lawyer and active Democrat, once provoked an angry, red-faced Gov. Reagan into calling him a lying son of a bitch just after a meeting ended.

Simon, the multimillionaire industrialist and art collector, has aimed a flurry of charges at his fellow regents over the years.

Perhaps the most spectacular of these he claimed in 1970 that some regents had been caught with their hands in the cookie jar in dealings between the university and the Irvine Co.

Simon never proved the charges but "defends them now on the grounds that when people get that close to power they do things they get a little more cautious about the things they do to the university. You've got to have somebody around to attack."

For the most part, however, discussions are marked by elaborate courtesy. Most regents are genuinely fond of one another, even though their politics or temperaments differ sharply.

Smith, a target of Simon's "cookie jar" charges, said recently, "Despite all that to-do, Norton and I are still pretty good friends."

Though much of the 100-year history of the Board of Regents has been marked by this spirit of good fellowship, there have been notable exceptions.

The board's close vote in 1950 to

new campuses, expanded three oth-

ers, added to the excellent reputations of Berkeley and UCLA and took its place in the California Master Plan for Higher Education as the institution that would do most of the state's research and produce most of its doctors, lawyers and Ph.D.s.

In these endeavors Kerr had solid support from the regents, but some conservative board members objected to other Kerr actions—opening

the university to political speakers, even Communist Party members;

making ROTC voluntary; forcing

fraternities and sororities to end racial and religious discrimination.

"We did the things that needed to be done to put the university in the right place academically," Kerr said.

"Most of the regents supported me."

Simon, the Los Angeles oil man and conservative Democrat who for years was one of the most powerful members of the Board of Regents,

"It was unsuccessful," Kerr said.

"People were very cool to each other. I remember that was a good loyalty oath dispute."

Simon, president of the UC Berkeley campus, made of ice and it was melting. I couldn't imagine why, considering the icy temperature in that room."

But after Kerr became president in 1958, replacing Robert Gordon Sprout, he said, "The regents really got along."

Though much of the 100-year history of the Board of Regents has been marked by this spirit of good fellowship, there have been notable exceptions.

During Kerr's eight-year pres-

idency the university opened three

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(D-San Jose), which was introduced in the Senate April 10, 1970, and was amend-

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## UC REGENTS

Continued from 7th Page  
off, few new programs are being started and budgets are increasing little if at all.

"We've really got to come to grips with where our campuses are going and specify certain roles for certain campuses," said Roth. "A very important part of that is to realize that we are not going to develop our graduate schools on all campuses the way we once thought we would."

The regents' relationship with the Legislature also present a serious problem.

A few years ago UC was pitted against Gov. Reagan and his Department of Finance. In recent years, while the governor has grown more generous with the university budget, new criticisms have been voiced by liberal Democrats in the Legislature.

They do not think UC has done enough for low-income students, especially those from minority races, and they are troubled by the university's elitism.

"From the state's point of view this should be maintained as the quality research entity. The state requires it," said Roth. "But there is a group in the Legislature which, in the name of progress, wants to level everything out. The regents must oppose this strongly."

But the board is hesitant about battling too vigorously while the Legislature continues measures that would shorten regents' terms and change the way they are selected.

UC's political clout has been weakened in the last decade by the rapid growth of the California State University and Colleges system, which now has twice as many campuses and more than twice as many students as UC and can thus bring local political pressure to bear on more issues.

"The University of California will play much less of a dominant role than it did," Campbell said. "The State University and Colleges have come of age and the university colleges are much more important than they were. This was inevitable in an age of mass higher education—but

cations, or should the board hire the best administrators possible, let them make the policy decisions and fire them if things go wrong?

Another important task facing the board is the selection of a new president to replace Hitch, who is 64 and has worked at a somewhat reduced pace since a mild heart attack three years ago.

One of the main reasons lies a fundamental unanswered question: should the regents decide important policy questions and order top administrators to implement their de-

## AMENDMENT

Continued from First Page

a blue-ribbon advisory committee would submit lists of regional candidates to the governor, who would be required to make his appointments from the lists under the Vasconcellos bill but would merely be required to consult with the committee under the Rodda bill.

Vasconcellos would remove the president of the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco and the president of the State Board of Agriculture and would replace the lieutenant governor with the Senate president pro tem. Rodda would drop the

Mechanics' Institute and State Board of Agriculture representatives and would increase the number of appointed regents from 16 to 18.

Both bills call for a board that is more representative of the state's population than the present group, which is largely composed of wealthy attorneys and business executives.

The regents, however, have supported SCA 45 as the lesser of two evils and worked closely with Rodda to develop the bill's details.

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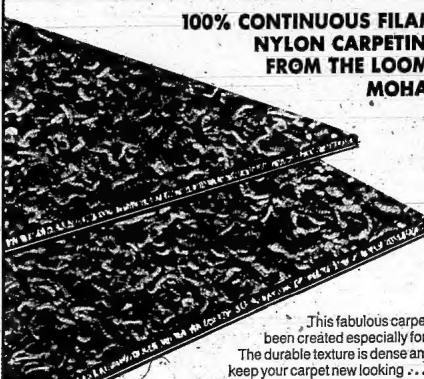
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## Argentina Starts Blast Furnace

**Buenos Aires (UPI)** Latin America's largest blast furnace for steel production has begun operation in Argentina, according to government announcement.

A government spokesman said the furnace at San Nicolas, 120 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, will produce 3,600 tons daily, of cast iron to be used in making steel. He said this will permit a 153% increase in Argentina's steel production.

# Los Angeles Times

**FINAL**

ONE OF THE WORLD'S  
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VOL. XCII FOURTEEN PARTS—PART ONE CC

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1974

416 PAGES

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Los Angeles Times

SUNDAY 50¢

## REAL LETTERS

Dear Juliet:  
Help Me With  
My Romeo...

BY WILLIAM TUCHY

*Times Staff Writer*

VERONA, Italy.—"Dear Juliet," begins a recent letter from Florida. "I'm writing about a problem that is much like the problem that you and Romeo had. I am in love with a man who is of different race and religion.

"Our plans were to be married as soon as possible, but after revealing them to our parents we ran into trouble. They would not let us get married and told us to forget one another and not cause trouble within our community and family."

"Please send me your advice as soon as possible. Sincerely, Sharon."

Another letter from Los Angeles reads: "Dear Juliet, I have a big problem. I have loved a boy named Gary. How can I get him to love me? A true believer in you. Joy."

The letters arriving in this northern Italian city are not addressed to a local advice-to-the-lovelorn columnist but to Giulietta Capulet, the ill-starred sweetheart of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

The most famous young lovers in literature have been dead almost 700 years now, if indeed they ever lived.

But still the letters—written on fancy stationery or on copybook, sheep-skin parchment or the state of the art—show a month of Verona, scene of the tragedy, a city which makes a point of keeping the Romeo and Juliet legend very much alive.

The letters are dropped off at the mailbox at the graceful, cloistered, Capuchin Church of San Francisco, where Juliet's marble tomb is located, by tradition, next to the chapel where the lovers were married shortly before their deaths.

A bust of Shakespeare looks out over the quiet courtyard garden with the weeping willow trees; and the topical graffiti is left intact on the walls above the tomb: "Roberlo loves Giovanna."

The letters come mainly from the United States. A girl in Washington writes: "Dear Juliet, I hope with all my heart that you can help me with a problem. I am shy. I like a boy named Ed who is sort of like Romeo—a love-and-leave them type. I just can't seem to say anything intelligent to him. What should I do? Love and bless you. Loretta, P.S. Thanks a Juliet."

Some letters come from Italian girls, written in somewhat more florid style.

"Carla Giulietta," writes a girl from Trieste, whose boyfriend has left her for another, "I put myself into your capable hands. Please accept my love and in the world without assistance, protection and advice. I place my hope in you, protectress of all pure, suffering hearts."

For the Latins, at least, Juliet is a patron saint for unhappy lovers.

And like many patron saints, the historical origin of the principals is shrouded in conjecture.

At the end of the 13th century, Verona was partly dominated by two rival, warring families, the Montecchi (Montagues), who were Guelphs and supported the Pope, and the Capuleti (Capulets), who were Ghibellines and supported the emperor, Frederick I.

Please Turn to Page 20, Col. 1

## U.S. Nurse, 6 Months Pregnant, Released by Ethiopian Guerrillas

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (UPI)—A 24-year-old pregnant American missionary nurse was freed by anti-government guerrillas Saturday and said she felt fine after her four-week ordeal.

Deborah Dortsbach of Freehold, N.J., walked alone into Massawa, a Red Sea port 450 miles north of Addis Ababa, where she had been held, and, like also a missionary. Hours later the couple were reunited and went into seclusion.

"I'm all right. I feel fine," Mrs. Dortsbach, now in her sixth month of pregnancy, told a pilot who flew her to Asmara, the capital of northern Eritrea province, to meet her husband.

She said during her faith had kept her going during 27 days as a hostage of the Eritrean Liberation Front.

No reason was given for her release. The guerrillas are still holding three Americans—two Canadians kidnapped during an oil exploration mission in Eritrea three months ago.



THE BIKE BEAT—Los Angeles policemen Joe Apodaca, left, and Jeff Pritchard patrol bikeway at Playa del Rey in new summer uniforms of beach detail—T-shirts, shorts, sneakers and sidearms. *W. Wrenshall*

## GOES TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER

### L.A. Rapid Transit Program at a Confused Crossroads

BY RAY HEBERT

*Times Urban Affairs Writer*

A muddled picture has emerged from the Los Angeles area's renewed effort to build a rapid transit system, and there is little chance that it will crystallize as the drive gains momentum.

With less than five months remaining before the issue goes to the voters, priorities and goals are bogged down in dissension. Financing is a massive question mark. Furthermore, the transit plan exists only in skeleton form.

Twenty months of planning—a disclosed \$1.2 million process—have brought the current rapid transit development program to a confused crossroads.

Indeed, the road to a vote at the Nov. 5 general election—the primary objective—is split into many choices and is well defined.

Even the basic system is in doubt. Voters will not know whether they are considering a network similar to San Francisco's BART rail system or some new mass transit idea still on the drawing boards.

A decision on the mode will come much later. It will be keyed to a new guideway system. It could mean rail lines, air cushion vehicles, personal rapid transit or some other scheme.

Patrons will pay 25 cents a ride. The experiment continues, but a study has shown that the federally aided demonstration project is costing the public \$1.50 for each patron.

The question remains: Is an extensive bus system the way Los Angeles should go?

Buses have neither the glamor nor, except for those traveling the San Bernardino Freeway busway, the speed of a fixed-rail rapid transit network.

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The planning team that has spent 20 months trying to produce a public transportation improvement program—with a fixed guideway network as the ultimate goal—has concluded that an all-bus system is not an acceptable solution for the Los Angeles area.

Please Turn to Page 28, Col. 1

## FEATURE INDEX

- ARTS Calendar
- BOOKS, Part 2, Pages 4, 5 and 7.
- BRIDGE, Home Magazine
- CHESS, Part 2, Page 3
- CINEMA NEWS, Part 2, Page 2
- CLASSIFIED SECTION
- CROSSWORD, Calendar
- HOME MAGAZINE
- METROPOLITAN NEWS, Part 2
- MOTION PICTURES, Calendar
- OPINION, EDITORIALS, Part 6
- OUTLOOK, BUSINESS, Part 5
- RADIO, Calendar
- SCIENCE, Part 7
- RESTAURANTS, Calendar
- SPORTS, Part 3
- TELEVISION, TV TIMES, Part 3
- VITALS, WEATHER, Part 2, Page 6
- WOMEN'S View, Part 4

## THE WEATHER

National Weather Service forecast: Late night and morning coastal low clouds and local fog, otherwise fair and warm today and Monday. Low in 60s. High Saturday, 85. Low, 62. Complete weather information in Part 2, Page 6.

## 'Neutral' Study of Tape Discrepancies Suggested by Ford

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ

*Times Political Writer*

MONTEREY — Vice President Ford suggested Saturday that a "neutral and independent" study be made to clear up discrepancies in transcripts of the White House tapes.

He said, however, he did not know whether President Nixon would be willing to submit the tapes to a neutral study.

Ford, here for a golfing weekend, told a news conference that he had scanned press reports (telling of marked differences between the White House version of taped presidential conversations, and the version produced by the staff of the House Judiciary Committee, which is studying the impeachment of President Nixon).

The committee staff reportedly has found significant differences and omissions between its reading of what is on some of the tapes and what the edited White House transcripts say.

Please Turn to Part 1-A, Page 3

## WRESTLING PIPE ON OFFSHORE RIG

### Sweat, Muscle Still Needed to Produce Oil

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS

*Times Staff Writer*

ABOARD MARINER II—There may be worse jobs than wrestling with several tons of steel pipe in a lather of mud and grease at 3 a.m. on the bobbing deck of an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, ramming 8,000 feet of pipe into the ocean floor.

But it's hard to imagine what they might be.

Rodney Farmer and his crew had been hauling, pulling, hammering, pushing and fighting with the pipe since midnight. The roughnecks handling the pipe were dripping mud and sweat, but the search for oil is implacable.

Day and night, 12 hours on and 12 hours off, seven days on and seven days off, the men work in a cramped, chaotic, always near, the search is pressed by the crew of Mariner II, a huge spider vehicle, a kind of floating municipality, 118 miles off New Orleans.

Last weekend seven men were killed in an explosion on another floating rig, which sank. There is no room for carelessness.

Farmer and his crew worked from midnight to noon, joking, cursing, laughing—sometimes working like robots—in unison with the huge pieces of machinery that grip the pipe—against a shadowy memory of wrenches, cables, pipe sections, wrenches, pliers, shears, hammers, water, only seldom showing their irritation:

HARD AT WORK—Roughnecks aboard Mariner II, an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, maneuver heavy sections of pipe.

"Gimme some hand signals, I can't hear you goddam mind." Farmer yelled up to Larry Kietzer, the derrick man 80 feet above, tied to a tiny

platform with a harness, who threw a rope around the pipe to maneuver it into place.

Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 1